



The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive • Peshawbestown, MI 49682-9275 • (231) 534-7750

Information regarding GTB Stimulus Payment

Dear Tribal Members,

The GTB Government Operations funds include among them long-term, “seven-generation” planning funds. These planning funds are the result of the Tribe’s longest-term financial thinking. They are made up of a combination of years of savings and various reimbursements recovered over time from the Federal government.

The planning for the use of these funds focused on ensuring that the Tribe could use these funds to continue to provide Governmental services and financially assist GTB members directly, in a time of crisis. The Tribal Council believes that threat of COVID-19 to members’ health and finances means that now is such a time. Therefore, please find enclosed a check for Five-Hundred dollars for you to use to take care of the essential needs of you and your family.

In addition to this stimulus payment, the Tribe has been taking other steps to prevent and prepare for the spread of the virus. These actions include: cancellation or postponement of events and activities which would likely result in close, person-to-person contact; coordination with State and Federal agencies to identify efforts to mitigate and address potential and real COVID-19 cases of infection; closure of places of business within its jurisdiction where close, person-to-person contact may occur; increasing funding for human services food orders for eligible families within GTB membership and reaffirming the Governor’s restrictions on unnecessary travel.

Throughout this time, Tribal administration, including the Tribal Manager, Emergency Manager, Health Administrator, CFO, HR, and communications has been working with its businesses, medical providers, and members to make sure they have the information they need to prepare for local impacts of the arrival of COVID-19 in the area.

Please see the following updates on the status of the Tribe’s essential services:

- The GTB Health clinic and dental department has continued appointment only patient visits, following strict CDC protocols. We expect to have more information on our Telehealth program available very soon.
- The Purchased referred care department is operational and expenses for PRC are still being processed and shall continue.
- Emergency transportation is still available.
- Elder’s luncheons are being made and delivered and will continue until further notice.



The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive • Peshawbestown, MI 49682-9275 • (231) 534-7750

- Food Pantries were operating at full capacity through March 17th, but due to our inability to secure food items we must close the pantries. Please note however, for eligible members food vouchers are being made available.
- Invoices are being paid and operations continue as best of our ability in the Accounting offices.
- Tribal families residing in low-income housing have had their rent and water/sewer payments suspended for the months of April and May.
- The Health Administrator and Emergency manager are working with the Tribal manager to secure needed protective gear for the health clinic and emergency staff. Calls, webinars, and teleconferences occur daily with some days having up to 6 per day.
- GTB Government and GTB Enterprises continue to explore all potential sources of funding available to the Tribe through this stimulus package.
- The Council with management staff, continues to communicate with our financing partners as we review all options regarding protecting the investment funds of our Tribe.
- GTB member health and safety is our greatest concern and daily communication with management staff, partners and our networks are occurring to ensure this.

The Tribe will continue to align its position on any “stay at home” orders with the those of Governor for the foreseeable future, therefore please refer to the State “stay at home” orders for the Tribe’s position on your travel. Remember, the “stay at home” order not only protects you, it protects elders and others who may be vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19. Please consider this when deciding whether to leave your home. Should you need to leave your home, please exercise social distancing, wash your hands, and observe all other precautionary measures advised.

If you have not done so, please sign up for Nixle. This is a notification system that comes directly to your cellphone. The management staff are also working closely with the communications department to keep Membership informed on our GTBINDIANS.org website, so please feel free to check in at that website for more information.

Miigwetch,

Thurlow “Sam” McClellan
Tribal Chairman